

**CLAIMS**

1. A black ink composition comprising  
a water soluble dye containing a single compound  
showing an absorption maximum at 440 to 540 nm with a half-  
value width of 90 nm to 200 nm for a visible region  
absorption spectrum in water.
2. A black ink composition according to claim 1,  
wherein the single compound is used as the color  
compensation dye.
3. A black ink composition according to claim 1 or 2,  
wherein the single compound has from 2 to 6 azo groups  
in one molecule and does not have a phenolic hydroxyl group.
4. A black ink composition according to any one of  
claims 1 to 3,  
wherein the water soluble dye is contained by 0.1 to 4  
mass% in black ink composition.
5. A black ink composition according to any one of  
claims 1 to 4, further comprising  
a water soluble black dye having from 2 to 4 azo groups  
conjugated to each other in one molecule.

6. A black ink composition according to claim 5,  
wherein the water soluble black dye has a hydroxyl  
group at a conjugation position of at least one of the azo  
groups.

7. A black ink composition according to claim 5 or 6,  
wherein the water soluble black dye has one or less  
heterocyclic ring in a color forming group.

8. A black ink composition according to any one of  
claims 5 to 7,  
wherein the water soluble black dye has an aggregate  
property.

9. An ink jet recording method comprising  
forming an image on an image receiving material by  
using an ink comprising the black ink composition according  
to any one of claims 1 to 8,  
wherein the image receiving material comprises: a  
support; and an ink receiving layer containing white  
inorganic pigment particles on the support.